

## Suicide Was Not in the Bond

There are many things that Americans, the Central Intelligence Agency, and apparently pilot Francis Gary Powers may never know about what happened to the U-2 plane he was flying over Sverdlovsk on May 1, 1960.

But the CIA has concluded after examination of the evidence that he "lived up to the terms of his employment and instructions."

During the 100 days in which Mr. Powers was under questioning in a Soviet prison and after his statement in the trial that followed, there were suggestions that he had "let down" the United States in various ways—as in failing to destroy the plane before parts of it could fall into Russian hands, in saying he was "sorry" for having participated in the mission, and possibly in not taking his own life before he could be interrogated.

On the last of these points the CIA statement is explicit that the instructions of the U-2 pilots were that they should "surrender without resistance" if faced with capture and were free to tell the nature of their mission. Specifically, there was no expectation of suicide even though he might have a poison needle for use if threatened with torture.

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee ended in almost effusive eulogy of the young U-2 pilot after his quiet answering of questions before the committee. Though doubtless gratified with the vindication Powers probably could dispense with being called a hero. More to the point is the fact that he did a job for which he is being paid \$50,000 and in which he underwent experiences not many Americans would be eager to share.